

Session 8B: Marine Protected Areas

Questions & Answers

Marc Pakenham

[Question not recorded.]

A: Some of the lessons I have learned I would suggest are based on some of the things happening with the MRCs in Washington State, and I really think that if I were king for a day, that perhaps I would start my discussions to create protected areas based on marine conservation committees, area-based discussions and so on, to take a look at the issues in the particular area and identify a response to those issues. I think that we are conditioned to believe that the authority comes from government or above or some such thing. I really believe the authority comes from the community, and I think that the really good work that's happening on San Juan Island and the things that can be achieved, we just hope to emulate those things in our waters and I think that we can, because the authority is in the community. The community has to exert its authority and express its interests.

[Question not recorded.]

A: Well, it's up and down. It's a bit of a roller coaster and First Nations have clearly articulated their interests in conservation and stewardship, and a couple of things that we have found to be very successful are joint educational initiatives. We are working hard to deliver on some of the curriculum things that we have identified, such as the temporal relationship with First Nations and our marine ecosystems. In other words, a 13-moon calendar and we will be working with Lummi Nation and some of our own First Nations peoples to develop that and we will probably do this curriculum internet based, and it will be highly interactive, and it will be fairly leading edge I would suggest. The education element is one of those things that we have in common, and that's one of the interests that we have built on and we haven't satisfied all of First Nations' interests in this because there are implications for treaties and so on that we can't resolve locally through this initiative, but we are working to build relationships, to build trust and to identify our common interests.

Liam Antrim

Q: Are you just looking at the intertidal and why aren't you looking offshore where some activities, particularly bottom trawling is undoubtedly having significant impacts?

A: Yes we are limiting the focus right now to the intertidal. A large part of that is because that's where we had a lot of information; we realized it would be a complex process and thought it would be achievable, and actually early on the park approached the sanctuary and with that overlapping jurisdiction expressed an interest in looking at this, and so, in a way, it is a baby step for the sanctuary and the intent is to move offshore, but there is both a lot more information that we're going to need to that. I think we don't have even the bathymetry very effectively mapped in a lot of the sanctuary, and it's also going to be a very large challenge so we started with a smaller one.

Richard Osborne

Q: In your area, you have a lot of businesses doing the same thing and you can get that peer pressure thing going. Where we are we have a lot of businesses and the peer pressure seems to go other way, they sort of band together to fight anything we want to do. I'd just like to hear your comments on trying to implement a voluntary program like this in an area like that?

A: One of the key things we learned early on was that you need to go to the commercial industry first. In other words, you want to have buy-in from the people who are fighting against it the most and get them to tell you what they are willing to do. We have done this with the commercial operators and it's worked pretty well, but we have gotten feedback from the rest of the public, the environmental groups, other NGOs, people on the shoreline are saying you're not doing enough. But the key is you have to have

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everybody participating. So your best bet is you go to the worst offenders, the people giving you the most trouble and you work with them first in small increments.

David Fluharty

Q: Where do you feel the use of artificial habitats will fit in in marine protected areas?

A: I'm certainly not an advocate of those being the only ones, but I think that what we learned from monitoring at an artificial one in Edmonds is a pretty interesting thing. It might give us ways to develop protocols for monitoring other areas. It may give us volunteers, divers, a place to train people to go out into other habitats if that one is fully occupied. The fact that you can actually do something and see results from those kinds of management is helpful. It's sort of like setting up a fully protected area and watching what happens with it over time versus setting up an artificial area. It tells you different things about what is going on and certainly the Edmonds reef brings a lot of people into contact with the concept of a marine protected area. So it raises public awareness. Those are the some of the ways I see that being a potential aid, but I would draw this distinction that I'm not necessarily a proponent of that. As many of you recall there was the idea of putting the Kingdome out and creating artificial habitat around Puget Sound. I don't think I would have gone for that, but a limited scale there is something to be learned.